

**Vorontsov to meet ex-Afghan king**

ROME (AP) — A top Soviet official arrived in Rome Friday to meet with the former king of Afghanistan, who has been mentioned as playing a possible role in a political settlement in his homeland. Yuri Vorontsov, a first deputy foreign minister who serves as the Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan, was scheduled to meet with the ex-king Saturday, a member of the Soviet delegation told reporters at Leonardo da Vinci airport. Vorontsov's visit to Rome came a day after he met in Moscow with U.S. Ambassador Jack Matlock. The Soviet news agency TASS, reporting on the meeting, said "during a thorough talk, the sides discussed specific aspects of creating appropriate conditions for forming an Afghan government on a broad basis." Former King Mohammad Zahir Shah, ousted in 1973 after a 40-year reign, has been talked about as playing some role in a transitional government when the Soviet Union completes its troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. But the 74-year-old ex-king has been extremely cautious in his public statements. In the past, he has called for the convening of an assembly of Afghan leaders to decide on a transitional government.

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# Jordan Times

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**AROUND THE WORLD...****Iraq: No new measures on Turkey-Mosul road**

ANKARA (R) — The Iraqi embassy in Ankara said Friday that traffic was normal on the highway from the Turkish border to the oil city of Mosul in northern Iraq. The embassy in a written statement to Reuters said: "Iraqi military authorities are only carrying out their security duties. Apart from this there has been no new change carried out." The statement followed a Reuters report from Ankara Dec. 19 which quoted foreign travellers as saying Iraq had built a chain of fort-like army posts along the main road from the Turkish border to Mosul, 85 kilometres to the south.

**Kenya resumes ties with Israel**

NAIROBI (R) — Kenya has reestablished diplomatic relations with Israel following the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) decision to recognise the Zionist state, state-run Voice of Kenya radio said Friday. Kenya, along with most other black African countries, broke off diplomatic relations with Israel after the 1973 war in line with a resolution of the Organisation of African Unity. Despite the lack of diplomatic relations, Kenya and Israel have developed close ties in the last few years.

**Sri Lanka to end state of emergency**

COLOMBO (R) — The Sri Lankan government said Friday it would end a five-year state of emergency next month as part of new efforts to bring peace to the strife-torn island. National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali made the announcement after the first cabinet meeting since last Monday's poll in which Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa was elected president. Athulathmudali told a news conference the government was doing its best "to reach some peaceful adjustments" to the Tamil separatist revolt in the north and left-wing violence in the south.

**Dali back in hospital**

FIGUERAS, Spain (R) — Spanish surrealist artist Salvador Dali, 84, was back in hospital Friday after suffering a small haemorrhage, doctors said. They said Dali, who spent two weeks in hospital last month with serious heart and breathing problems, was taken to hospital in his hometown of Figueras overnight after vomiting blood. He would undergo tests for two to three days, doctors said.

**Bomb threat on Air India Jumbo**

LONDON (R) — A bomb threat caused an Air India Boeing 747 bound for New York to return to London's Heathrow Airport Friday, an airline spokesman said. About 30 minutes after the plane carrying 250 people took off, Air India's New York office received an anonymous telephone message that a bomb was aboard. The warning was radioed to the captain of Air India Flight 109 who decided to return to London, the spokesman said. The Jumbo landed and taxied to an isolated area of the airport where passengers got out and the plane was searched. Earlier, one of the airport's terminals was evacuated for nearly an hour after the discovery of a suspect suitcase. A bomb disposal team later found it contained only clothes.

**Shevardnadze visits North Korea**

TOKYO (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has arrived in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, last leg of a three-nation tour that included visits to Tokyo and Manila, the North's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Friday. North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam and other top government officials greeted Shevardnadze on his arrival Thursday night from Manila, the news agency said in a report monitored in Tokyo. KCNA said Shevardnadze was paying a "working visit" as an official state guest but provided no details on his agenda. Japanese government officials said he was scheduled to return to Moscow Saturday. Shevardnadze has said his visit to Pyongyang was intended to reaffirm traditional ties of friendship between the two communist nations.

**Sweden departs Palme case Kurd**

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden said Friday it would deport a Kurdish man formerly considered by detectives hunting the killer of Prime Minister Olof Palme to be a vital source of information. The Foreign Ministry said the Kurd, who was not named, was being extradited to West Germany, where authorities want to question him on a murder charge. It gave no other details. The man, a former member of the Kurdish separatist movement PKK, was regarded as a key informant in the Palme murder investigation when Swedish police were convinced the PKK assassinated Palme in February 1986. Police suspected Palme was assassinated in revenge for a decision by his Social Democratic government to brand the PKK a terrorist organisation. The PKK line of inquiry finally collapsed owing to lack of evidence and 20 Kurds who had been detained were released. Police last week arrested a lone Swede, a former mental patient with a record of violent crime, on suspicion of shooting dead the Swedish premier in central Stockholm.

**Death hits Bangladesh peace efforts**

DHAKA (R) — A tribal leader who played a key role in efforts to end a 15-year revolt in southern Bangladesh died Friday after being shot by a suspected left-wing guerrilla. Officials said they feared the death of Shantam Dewan, 62, would jeopardise recent progress in efforts to bring peace to the Chittagong hill tracts. Dewan was shot by a suspected "Shanti Bahini" (Peace Force) rebel in the hill tracts town of Rangamati Tuesday. He died in a military hospital in the southern port city of Chittagong, officials said. Dewan had acted as an intermediary between the government and guerrillas in the dense jungles of the hill tracts where 1,500 people have been killed since 1973.

**Ibn Ali urges end to U.S.-Libya feud**

TUNIS (R) — The Tunisian president Friday urged the United States to settle its dispute with Libya peacefully over Washington's allegations that Tripoli was producing chemical weapons, the official news agency TAP said. President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali told U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau he hoped Washington would take Libya's denials about such a factory into consideration and that the dispute could be solved by peaceful means, it said. U.S. President Reagan said Wednesday that Washington was in contact with its allies about how to prevent Libya making poison gas. He did not rule a preemptive attack on a factory at Rabta, 60 kilometres from the Mediterranean coast (see page 2).

**Rabbani to meet Iran-based rebels**

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan rebel sources said Friday Burhanuddin Rabbani, current chairman of the Pakistan-based Afghan guerrilla alliance, left Friday for talks with rebels based in Iran. A guerrilla spokesman said Wednesday that a date and agenda for a second round of talks with the Soviet Union would be announced after Rabbani returned to Pakistan. The Iran-based guerrillas operate mainly in western Afghanistan, where much of the population belongs to the Shi'ite sect of Islam dominant in Iran. Members of the more powerful seven-party alliance in Pakistan are mainly Sunni Muslims.

**King reviews anti-locust campaign**

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein Thursday visited southern regions where he was briefed on progress of work (photo above) in efforts mounted to counter the threat of locusts (see story on page 3)

## Recorders offer little clue to Pan Am crash

LOCKERBIE, Scotland (Agencies) — The cockpit voice recorder from a crashed Pan Am Boeing 747 jet killing at least 275 people ended with a faint, unquantified noise, "at the end of the cockpit tape which was being further analysed."

There was no clue about the mysterious sound. Investigators said earlier there was no immediate evidence that a bomb caused the midair disintegration of the plane.

In London, the U.S. embassy said in a statement the cause of the crash was still unknown. All 258 passengers and crew on the airliner were killed while wreckage and blazing fuel killed at least 17 people on the ground.

The tapes confirmed that the crew had sent no distress signals before the plane fell out of the sky in a ball of fire Wednesday and crashed on this Scottish town.

The spokesman said there was nothing abnormal on either tape prior to the abrupt cessation of signals.

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(Continued on page 3)

that the tapes ended abruptly with the aircraft cruising at 31,000 feet (9,500 metres)," he said.

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Mick Charles, of the Transport Department's air accident investigation branch, told a news conference: "We have no evidence whatsoever yet of sabotage."

He also said the investigation continued and that sabotage had not been ruled out as a possible cause of the Wednesday night

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## GCC cements Gulf peace, urges international conference

**BAHRAIN** (Agencies) — Leaders of the six-state Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) ended an annual summit Thursday pledging to consolidate the Iran-Iraq peace drive, safeguard free navigation in the Gulf and seek an international conference on the Palestinian question.

They endorsed Saudi-sponsored talks between the Soviet Union and Afghan rebels amid speculation that the Middle East oil giant was moving towards resuming diplomatic ties with Moscow after a 50-year break.

The four-day summit was attended by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'ad of Oman, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait, Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani of Qatar, Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan of the United Arab Emirates and Sheikh Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifa of Bahrain.

They underscored their resolve to beef up collective defence capabilities and gave economic integration plans a shot in the arm with the so-called "Manama Declaration" calling for speeded-up efforts towards a Gulf common market.

"The council reiterates its resolve to pursue efforts aimed at consolidating security and stability in the region in a way that would

guarantee the right to free navigation in the international waters and seas," the summit stated in a closing communiqué read by GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara of Kuwait.

It said it backed efforts by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to promote a peace treaty between Iran and Iraq to formally end their eight-year-old war.

The summit appealed to the world to support the Arabs' quest for an international conference on the Palestinian question to pave the way for a lasting Arab-Israeli peace and an independent Palestinian state.

It said that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) should take part in the proposed conference to be held under U.N. auspices, with the participation of the permanent Security Council members.

The summit expressed hopes that the U.S.-PLO dialogue will help bring about an international peace conference.

But Syrian President Hafez Al

Assad Wednesday indicated that he may be ready to reconcile with Egypt following Saudi mediation. That would end a major split hindering Arab unity.

The GCC leaders pledged to abide by oil production quotas agreed by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) last November under an overall ceiling of 18.5 million barrels a day. The quotas take effect Jan. 1.

The communiqué urged other OPEC member states to observe their quotas, calling on non-OPEC oil exporters to cooperate with the group to trim production and boost pricing prices.

### Excerpts

Following are excerpts from the final communiqué as issued Thursday in English by Bahraini information officials:

The Supreme Council studied the security situation in the region and developments of negotiations between Iran and Iraq to implement the U.N. Security Council Resolutions 598...

The council expresses satisfaction over the positive developments in the region represented in the ceasefire and the start of negotiations connected with Resolution 598 and appreciates the (U.N.) secretary general's

efforts. The council affirms the continuation of work with the international community, mainly the permanent member states of the U.N. Security Council, to fully implement the resolution.

(It) renews the determination to work in order to maintain security and stability in the region, to ensure the right of free navigation in international waters and sea lanes in harmony with the principles of international law and the U.N. charter, and on the bases of good neighbourliness, non-interference in domestic affairs, mutual respect and peaceful co-existence taken from the religious and heritage ties linking the region's states.

Praising the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people in (Israeli)-occupied lands, the council affirms the support of the member states for this uprising with all available potential until the uprising's goals are achieved, and praised the decisions of the Palestine National Council in its emergency session in Algiers and the declaration of an independent Palestinian state.

The council supports the establishment of this state and expresses appreciation for the states that recognised it, urging the rest of the states to recognise the Palestinian state.



Israeli soldiers patrol Manger Square in Bethlehem in front of the Church of the Nativity

## Palestinian Christmas: Sad, little town of Bethlehem

By G.G. Labelle  
The Associated Press

BETHLEHEM, occupied West Bank — A small Christmas tree sits in Georgette Shatara's living room, but she says there will be no turkey dinner this year, yet alone the whole roast sheep that marked holidays past.

"You see the tree?" she asked. "I did it for my youngest. He begged and begged."

But Shatara had to tell eight-year-old Khader, who sat nearby in neat clothes but torn tennis shoes, that Santa Claus will not make a visit this year to the family's one-story stone house on a hillside in the town where the Bible relates that Christ was born.

After a year of the Palestinian uprising, many Christian families like the Shatars do not have the money or the spirit for a traditional Christmas celebration.

The shortened daily working hours and weekly general strikes have hit the economy hard. Violence has taken the lives of more than 340 Palestinians and wounded thousands of others, and 20,000 have been jailed since the uprising started last December.

Leaders of the uprising also have declared a general strike for Christmas Eve, when Palestinian Christians used to crowd into Manger Square with thousands of tourists to watch the parade that led religious leaders to the Church of Nativity.

About 35,000 Palestinian Christians live in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Most are concentrated in Bethlehem, nearby Beit Jala and Beit Sahur, and Ramallah north of Jerusalem.

The Shatars, Roman Catholics, used to celebrate Christmas by going to midnight mass, then having Christmas dinner with as many as 50 relatives. The traditional menu included turkey, a roasted sheep, stuffed zucchini and sweets.

This year, dinner will be for just Mrs. Shatara, her husband, Issa, and their six children. It will be "nothing special," she said.

The 38-year-old Mrs. Shatara says the reason for a quiet Christmas is obvious: "Lots have been killed, many others arrested. There's no work, no money. There's no reason for Christmas."

Mrs. Shatara says her husband, 48, is a waiter in a restaurant in Arab Jerusalem and brings home only about 10 shekels (\$6) a day since there are few diners and few tips.

Her oldest son, Joseph, 19, quit high school to try to supplement the family income, but has found no steady work.

"For the first time, there's no money for clothes for the children, for toys," she said.

The intifada, Arabic for uprising, was also brought home to the family 10 days ago when a 14-year-old cousin got caught up in a stoning incident and was arrested by Israeli soldiers. Mrs. Shatara said he was held three days and complained he was beaten.

She said the family would not go to midnight mass both because of the general strike and a lack of spirit.

"There's no joy in our house," she said.

Others disagree with plans to drop Christmas rituals. Robert Elhan, another Bethlehem resident, complains that Christians were becoming a beleaguered minority in the biblical city and should celebrate to assert their presence.

"All year, we've had days of sorrow. We need a day to smile," he said when Bethlehem's Palestinian officials announced last month that a traditional Christmas parade would be cancelled and the town Christmas tree would be without lights.

Israeli authorities are going ahead with plans to hold the usual ceremony on Christmas Eve in which the military administrators of the West Bank greet church leaders in Manger Square, near the grotto where Christ was born.

Israel also plans a Christmas Eve concert in Manger Square, featuring choirs from Spain, Switzerland and a U.S. ensemble.

Mrs. Shatara's 14-year-old daughter, Rania, said her biggest disappointment this Christmas is that she and her classmates at St. Joseph's School will not go caroling door-to-door as usual.

"Everyone will miss it," she said.

Asked her wish for Christmas, Mrs. Shatara replied with the salam.

"I hope that on this birthday of the prince of peace there will be peace for all of us," she said.

## Iran charges Pan Am bomb 'crude propaganda ploy'

BEIRUT (AP) — Libya and Somalia have signed an economic and cultural treaty after talks in Tripoli between Libyan leader Muammar Oadha and Somali President Mohammed Siad Barre. The official Libyan news agency JANA said Thursday the treaty was announced in a joint communiqué issued at the end of the talks. Siad Barre arrived in Libya Sunday and left on Wednesday. The agency said the two countries signed "a general treaty for economic, social and cultural cooperation aimed at enhancing cooperation." JANA quoted the communiqué as saying the two countries supported an independent Palestinian state as well as the Palestinian uprising. The statement vowed support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and "its struggle for liberation to establish the Palestinian state over all the land of Palestine."

Frenchman implicated in ship attack

PIRAEUS (AP) — A Frenchman killed in an attack on the City of Poros cruise liner last July has been implicated in the gun and grenade assault that left nine people dead and 98 injured, sources said Friday. The accusation against Laurent Vigneron, 23, is contained in the results of an investigation into the July 11 attack on the City of Poros, sources at the district attorney's office said. The bulky report, drafted by port authority officials, was handed to a district attorney Thursday. According to the sources that requested anonymity, the report states that Vigneron was one of two people identified by eyewitnesses as firing a weapon on the ship's sun deck as it steamed towards a suburban Athens marina after a day-trip through the Saronic Gulf islands. The report does not include any other evidence linking Vigneron to the attack, they added. A second man that took part in the attack against the ship's 471 passengers was identified as Mohammad Zozad, 21. According to the report, Zozad, a Lebanese national, was killed in an explosion aboard the ship, the sources said.

LIBYA AND SOMALIA SIGN TREATY

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Iranian Prime Minister Hussein Musavi Thursday denied any Tehran involvement in the crash.

A man purporting to speak for the "Guardians of the Islamic Revolution" claimed in tele-

phone calls to the Associated Press and other news organisations in London Thursday that the group planted a bomb aboard the Pan Am jet to avenge an Iranian airliner shot down over the Gulf July 3 by the U.S. missile cruiser Vincennes, killed all 290 people aboard.

The Americans said the Iran

Air plane was mistaken for an attacking Iranian F-14 fighter during a clash between the Vincennes and Iranian gunboats. The downing triggered a clamour of Iranian calls for retaliation against U.S. targets.

IRNA quoted the Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying: "The anonymous calls to involve the Islamic republic in the air crash is simply a crude propaganda ploy by certain foreign media to manipulate world public opinion against Iran." He did not elaborate.

The only other attack claimed by the so-called Guardians was in London last year. A leading Iranian dissident opposed to the revolution's "holy war."

## Most Israelis favour PLO talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Most Israelis support peace negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) despite their new "unity" government formed Thursday.

The poll by the Dafah institute published in Yedioth Ahronoth, Israel's biggest-selling newspaper, said 54 per cent of Israelis wanted their government to talk to the PLO if it lived up to its commitment to halt "terrorism."

They were asked: "On the basis of (PLO Chairman Yasser) Arafat's declarations in Geneva and on condition he fulfills his promise to stop 'terrorism,' are you in favour or against negotiations with the PLO?"

### Soviet call on Israel

Israel should use the example of its recent closer dealing with the Soviet Union to adopt a more constructive approach to Middle East peace negotiations, a senior Soviet official said Thursday.

Fifty-four per cent of Israeli Jews questioned said they supported talks, 44 per cent said they were opposed and two per cent said they had no opinion.

The poll did not sample Israel's 650,000 Arab citizens.

Pollsters told the newspaper the results indicated a significant increase in the number of Israelis

willing to talk to the PLO.

Israel's new "national unity" government formed Thursday vowed to crush the year-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and to refuse talks with the PLO despite international pressure.

The United States opened talks with the PLO earlier this month after Arafat recognised Israel's right to exist, renounced "terrorism" and accepted U.N. resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

### Armenia

Armenia broke off diplomatic relations with Israel during the 1967 war, but ties between the two countries have warmed considerably in recent months.

Each has had a consular delegation in the other country since last summer, nominally to deal with administrative problems.

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Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday inspects a model of the Al Amal Home project. Also present is Princess Alia Al Faisal (Petra photo)

## Queen Noor lays foundation stone for Al Amal Home

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday laid the foundation stone for the Al Amal Home, a centre for the multi-disabled and was briefed on the different aspects of the project.

At the outset of the ceremony, General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) President Abdul Khathib delivered a speech in which he said the centre, to be built at Yajouz, was expected to accommodate 150 handicapped children aged between six and 20 years.

The centre, to be set up on an eight dunum land, will provide rehabilitation service, education and physiotherapy services to the handicapped children on a permanent basis, Khatib said.

To be accepted for treatment and rehabilitation, residents should be proved by examination to be mentally handicapped and suffer from one or more handicaps, while the centre will be supplied with equipment to help provide the essential services at a nominal cost, Khatib noted.

Multi-disabled children are currently being taken care of at a GUVS temporary centre located at Tha Al Ali district.

GUVS, which is sponsoring the project, is now supervising the work of 30 local voluntary and charitable societies which help provide rehabilitation services to handicapped children, Khatib said in his speech.

He said these societies complement the work of the Ministry of Social Development in caring for the less fortunate children in the Jordanian society.

Other speeches were delivered by relatives of handicapped children and the head of Zarqa's GUVS branch.

Later, the Queen accompanied by Princess Alia Al Faisal and the minister of social development toured the site, inspected a model of the project and was briefed on the different stages of the project.

The total cost of the project is estimated at JD 450,000.

## Lawzi receives university students

AMMAN (Petra) — A group of distinguished students from the University of Jordan Thursday had a meeting with speaker of the parliament and the law making process in parliament.

Lawzi spoke in detail about Jordan's close links with the Palestinian people and the recent favourable developments that can help re-establish justice and peace in the Middle East.

Lawzi also spoke about Jordan's close links with the Palestinian people, and the recent favourable developments that can help re-establish justice and peace in the Middle East.

Jordanian people.

## Khayyat returns from Cairo meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat has returned to Amman from Cairo where he took part in an international seminar on demographic studies.

The seminar tackled the world's population growth, birth control and questions related to birth and mortality rates around the world.

According to the minister, Khayyat said he also took part in a meeting of the board of directors of the International Islamic Centre on Population, organised by the Al Azhar University of Cairo.

## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**DAKHGAN MEETS U.K. ENVOY:** Water and Irrigation Minister Ahmad Dakhgan Thursday discussed with the British Ambassador in Amman cooperation and coordination in water projects. (Petra)

**KATHRABA ELECTIONS:** Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Environment Marwan Al Hmoud Friday announced that the Kathraba Municipal Council unanimously won the elections. He also announced the nominations of Abdul Salam Rashid Al Qaraleh as mayor to the prime ministry. (Petra)

**MEETING TO DISCUSS LOCUSTS:** Agriculture Minister Yousef Hamdan Al Jabr will meet with directors of agriculture departments Saturday to brief them on the latest measures the ministry has undertaken to combat desert locusts. (Petra)

**THEATRE SEASON ENDS:** The theatre season was concluded at the Royal Cultural Center Thursday. The Culture and National Heritage Ministry Secretary General, Dr. Hani Al Amad, said four plays were presented in December. The ministry intends to hold the poem and poetry season, the book season, and the plastic art season which Her Majesty Queen Noor will open Wednesday, Amad said. These seasons are designed to reactivate the cultural movement, he added. (Petra)

**CULTURAL WEEK IN OMAN:** Jordan's Ambassador to Oman Samir Al Hmoud Thursday discussed with Omani Minister of National Heritage and Culture Faisal Ibn Ali Al Said means to bolster cultural relations. They also discussed the possibility of holding a Jordanian cultural week next year coinciding with Oman's National Day celebrations. The Omani minister welcomed the idea and recalled the successful Omani week that was held in Jordan in 1985. (Petra)

**ART EXHIBITION OPENS:** Under the patronage of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Royal Jordanian Ali Ghandour, a two-week exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Farouk Lambaz was opened Thursday at the Alia Art Gallery. The exhibition includes 39 works depicting desert life and natural scenes from Jordan. (Petra)

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Friends of Plastic Art in Gulf countries at the National Gallery.
- ★ The youth's art exhibition which displays 101 paintings showing the different aspects of social life in Jordan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasli Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Farouk Lambaz at Alia Art Gallery — 5:30 p.m.

### LECTURE

- ★ A lecture by Dr. Mohammad Abu Hanash on contemporary international society problems at Abdulla Shoman Foundation — 6:00 p.m.



## Outgoing Australian envoy honoured

Australia's ambassador to Jordan Terence Goggin was honoured at a ceremony held at the Amman Plaza Hotel Thursday on the conclusion of his tour of duty in Jordan. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem hosted a lunch in Goggin's honour and presented him with a token gift. Qasem delivered a short

speech in which he paid tribute to the ambassador for his efforts to promote and bolster Jordanian-Australian ties in all fields. Attending the lunch with Goggin, who served as ambassador here since 1986, was a group of heads of diplomatic missions in Jordan (Petra photo)



Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh Thursday received the shield of the English city of Birmingham during a meeting with the municipality with a team representing the city's

boxing club. Rawabdeh briefed the team on the capital's development and programmes for expansion. He also presented the visitors with Amman's shield.

## Seminar on development of badia region ends in Azraq

# King Hussein: No aspirations, objectives should be abandoned

AZRAQ (Petra, J.T.) — A two-day seminar on the development of the badia (desert regions) of Jordan ended in Azraq Thursday, and the recommendations passed at the final session covered water, irrigation, agriculture, social services, mineral resources and the infrastructure in the badia region which forms more than 70 per cent of the total area of Jordan.

His Majesty King Hussein attended part of the final session which was held under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and attended by Minister of Planning Talal Kanana, along with dignitaries from the badia region and senior officials.

King Hussein paid tribute to the teams involved in planning and implementing plans for the development of the semi-desert areas of the country and described the meeting as one more station in the long march towards progress.

The King referred to the numerous challenges and difficulties overcome by the Jordanian people over the years, and the many achievements realised through their dedication and hard as well as serious endeavours, and said that more efforts are still to be exerted because no aspirations and objectives should be abandoned.

King Hussein referred to the meeting as a true manifestation of democracy where the people and government can meet and openly and frankly discuss matters of real interest for the country's development as well as serve.

The King voiced appreciation to Prince Hassan and to all who contributed towards organising the seminar which, he said, aimed to develop a dear part of Jordan and help exploit latent potentials in the desert areas of the country.

Addressing the session later, the minister of planning reviewed the government's plans for the development of the badia region which, he said, forms 77 per cent of the total area of the country, containing 123 population settlements mostly bedouin tribes, and abound with natural resources, underground and surface water areas still awaiting to be tapped.

Kanana said that the badia region of Jordan is rich with cement, oil, oil shale, natural gas phosphates, and offers a good chance to be developed and serve as pasture land where farming can flourish and where infrastructure projects and essential ser-

vices such as electricity, health and education can be carried out.

The minister pointed out that the desert areas extended over vast areas, interlinking with the desert areas of neighbouring Arab countries "that can and should be utilised by Arab states through collective programmes and joint efforts."

The heads of the sub-committees presented reports that contained recommendations on various schemes to be carried out in the badia districts.

### Human resources

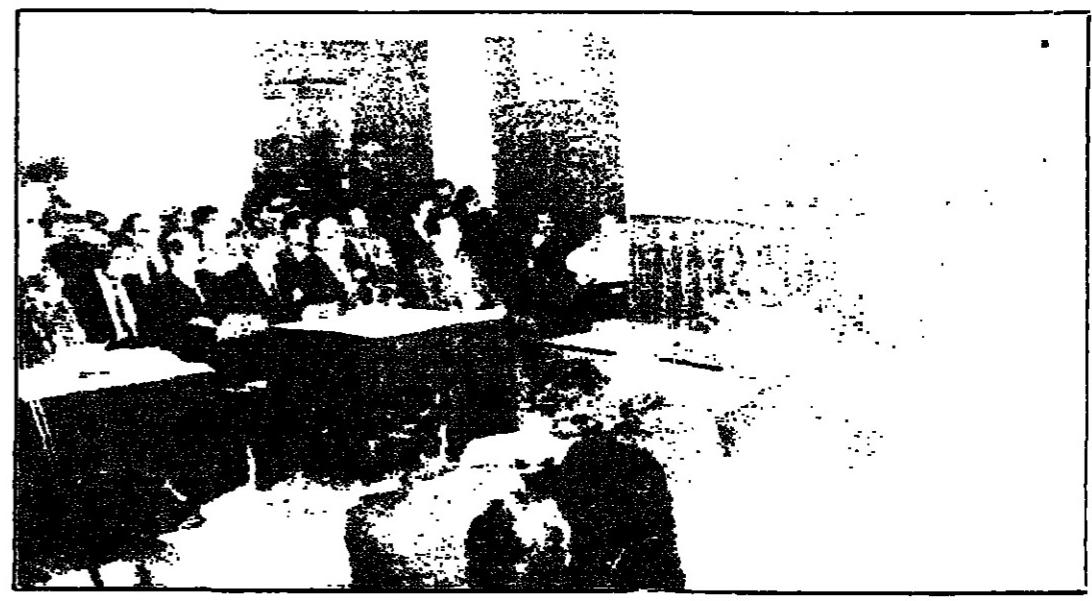
In the field of human resources and population, the seminar urged the government to boost efforts designed to provide data and information about the population that can help the process of development, such as conducting a general census and a survey of the existing settlements and homes inhabited by the local population.

It urged the Ministry of Planning to draw up a general plan for the development of human resources in the semi-desert regions, aiming to attain higher standards of living for the inhabitants and provide essential services to them.

It said that the desert regions should be made to serve as an area that attracts settlers, provided with services and means enabling them to carry on their struggle to develop their region, especially in the sectors of agriculture and mineral resources.

The seminar urged the Ministry of Education to give further attention to the badia region through providing more qualified teachers, increasing scholarships for badia children who would be employed to serve their community after graduation and through vocational training programmes.

The seminar urged the concerned authorities to allow the youth who are required to do national service, to help in implementing projects for greening the desert as part of their service and build a green belt that can end the encroachment of desert lands on arable regions.



His Majesty King Hussein Thursday attends part of the final session of the badia development seminar in Azraq Thursday (Petra photo)

of Agriculture to conduct studies on the soil to determine its eligibility for different types of crops once lands have been reclaimed for farming purposes, and to conduct studies on the expansion of pasture lands.

This, it said, can be promoted through coordination with technical teams and specialists from universities and other concerned departments.

The seminar called on the Ministry of Agriculture to build small dams in the wadis to provide water for animals and offer local stock breeders sufficient fertilisers, animal feed and advice.

The seminar urged the Ministry of Agriculture to set up permanent stations supplied with equipment and pesticides to help carry out major campaigns for spraying crops against diseases and combat dangerous insects such as desert locusts.

It also called on the ministry to open agricultural roads that can help transport animals from one district to another, and to set up resthouses for travellers in the badia regions.

The seminar recommended projects in electricity, education, health and other fields. It urged the Jordan Electricity Authority to supply badia villages with power and the Ministry of Health to provide more child and mother care services by establishing health centres and primary health care centres.

The seminar urged the Ministry

of Social Development to extend assistance to the needy families of the badia regions of Jordan and encourage voluntary societies to visit the badia region and plan projects for the local needy inhabitants.

The seminar referred to housing urging the Ministry of Housing to set up homes for employees especially teachers in remote regions and to include the badia within a national housing strategy.

### Literacy centres

The seminar also urged concerned authorities to promote the role of bedouin women in the overall development process, by building literacy centres to provide education to adults and pave the way for women to embark on traditional crafts.

The seminar urged the Jordanian government to conclude agreements with the governments of Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Syria to organise the process of animal grazing in the border region and to step up efforts with these governments for the development of the Hammam region in the far eastern districts bordering on Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Syria.

The seminar urged the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company to work in conjunction with the Water Authority of Jordan in organising informational campaigns for the development of the badia region.

## Al Hussein visits regions invaded by locusts

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday made an inspection tour of the Sahab and Wadi Hammam regions in south east Jordan, the scene of desert locust invasion and was briefed on the situation there.

King Hussein urged the concerned teams from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Armed Forces and the Badia Force in combating the pest.

The Ministry of Agriculture is spearheading efforts in the current campaign and has involved 20 ground teams supplied with equipment, vehicles and pesticides to carry out the task.

King Hussein paid tribute to the troops and local inhabitants who are involved in the fight against locusts.

He was accompanied by Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force.



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## Jordan Times

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Editorial Director:

RAKAN AL MAJALI

Director General:

DR. RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:

DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 661242

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### Prepare for the worst and hope for the best

THERE are many important lessons to be drawn from the cataclysmic earthquake that pulverised the Armenian Republic in the Soviet Union and devastated the rural and urban areas in that region on Dec. 7. Above all it was the human dimension which caught the attention and concern of the whole international community. As the year 1988 draws to a close the images and voices of the dead and injured in the aftermath of the horrendous tremor would continue to haunt man's feelings, emotions and thoughts for many years to come.

And now that weeks have passed since the Armenian earthquake has struck, concerned people are searching through the rubble and ashes for answers and possible preventive measures that could be introduced to alleviate the sufferings that could ensue from natural disasters. Such concerns are equally relevant for us in Jordan as well, where there is a growing concern that our country and people may not be immune from this type of natural disasters as we would like to believe. As the Department of Seismology at the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) has confirmed recently Jordan and the area around it have a history of earthquakes dating back 4000 years, with the last major earthquake occurring in July 1927. From a geological point of view the situation in Jordan is very similar to that in California with the marked difference lying in the speed of the two geophysical movements in the Jordanian region, NRA authorities confirm. While it is most comforting to note that the NRA has started to monitor geophysical movements in our region back in 1983 and is now operating eight monitoring stations scattered around the Kingdom — soon to be increased to 30 — there are still measures yet to be taken in view of the experiences gathered in the aftermath of the Armenian earthquake.

Over and above the need to have the Civil Defence authorities be better prepared for any eventuality in the form of an earthquake that could hit us any moment, it would be sane and reasonable to start articulating and formulating new guidelines for construction in Jordan. One of the principal factors that lead to the very high human toll in human casualties in the wake of the Armenian earthquake was the kind of construction used in the region affected by the earthquake. It has become evident now that had the construction code in the urban areas of the Soviet Republic of Armenia been more geared to cope with possible earthquakes, as is the case in California, the damage could have been reduced considerably and the human casualty list would have been cut by more than half. That is why we in Jordan must begin to think about the unthinkable and prepare our urban areas to the worst scenario possible, by issuing new guidelines for all future construction schemes in the country. While the NRA is telling us that it is difficult to make predictions as to whether or when Jordan could witness a major earthquake, they are nevertheless warning us that an earthquake could occur tomorrow or not for the next fifty years. But strike us at one time or another it will. Let us be prepared for the worst and hope for the best.

### ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

TWO Jordanian dailies Friday tackled the situation in the occupied Arab territories in the light of the new Israeli coalition government.

Al Ra'i said that one of the cabinet members Moshe Arens has stated his intention of persuading the U.S. administration to give up the idea of a dialogue with the PLO which, he claimed, can not be conducive to peace. Another member of the new cabinet Shimon Peres called for finding a substitute for the PLO from among the Palestinian people living under Israeli rule, the paper added. It asked that both statements point to one direction: that the new government in Israel is oriented against the peace process and will do all it can to abort any moves for a U.S.-PLO understanding on an international conference that would pave the way for a lasting peace. In the light of this situation, the paper said, the Arabs should intensify their efforts worldwide to thwart Israel's moves and should back the Palestinian people's uprising with all available means so that the Palestinians can resist all Israeli pressures and maintain the struggle for freedom.

The editor of Al Ra'i daily Rakan Al Majali writes Friday on the appointment of Moshe Arens and other hawks in the Israeli government and says it was a clear gesture that the new coalition will fight peace. The appointment of Moshe Arens as foreign minister indicates that the new cabinet plans to carry the fight against the idea of peace to the international arena and the appointment of Yitzhak Rabin as minister of defence shows that the government wants to maintain its iron fist policy against the Palestinians on the domestic front, the writer notes. Majali points out that no matter how different to the outside world, the two Israeli parties the Likud and Labour might seem, they are in fact two faces of the same coin and are bent on implementing Zionist strategies one way or another. By rejecting to talk to the PLO and the idea of a PLO-U.S. dialogue; Israel is telling the whole world that it refuses to implement U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 through an international conference and rejects the idea of peace in the Middle East, the writer continues. He says that the formation of an Israeli cabinet of this nature is a clear manifestation of the evil nature of the Zionists who are at the helm of power in Israel today.

Al Dustour daily dwelt on the same subject and said that it was natural for the Likud and Labour to form a coalition government since they are no different from one another in terms of aggression on the Arabs and are indeed in alliance to thwart any attempt to reach peace in the Middle East. There was no alternative for the two parties in the face of the mounting world pressure but to join hands and pool their resources in the fight against world pressure in an attempt to undermine the PLO-U.S. dialogue that could lead to peace, the paper noted. It said that there can be no doubt now that the so-called hawks and the doves of Israel wear the same feather and aim to carry out the same racist and fascist policies to serve the world Zionist movement.

## France not quite ready to pack up despite Chad-Libya detente

By Jean-Loup Fievet  
Reuters

N'DJAMENA — Each day at dawn French-marked Mirage jets burst into N'Djamena's dusty skies in a deafening aerial ballet as they set out for routine surveillance flights over the Chadian desert.

Five months after Chad and Libya agreed to a truce in their border dispute, France still offers its mighty shield to this vast central African nation ravaged by decades of civil strife and war.

But last week, after talks with Chadian President Hissene Habre in Morocco, President Francois Mitterrand said France would scale down its costly military presence in its former colony.

"The current rapprochement between Chad and Libya allows a reappraisal of the French military presence, but in any case the core of the Epervier (Sparrowhawk),

operation will remain," France's top military commander in Chad, air force Colonel Hughes Poncet, said in a recent interview with Reuters.

Sparrowhawk is the code-name of a sophisticated air defence system backed with ground troops France sent to Chad in 1986 to counter a threat to the north of the country from Libya.

French sources say Epervier still costs about \$5 million a month.

Chad and Libya, at odds over the Aouzou strip, a stretch of desert border, last year signed a ceasefire agreement after the Chadian army drove Libya out of northern Chad.

"We are here at Chad's request and any change in our mission will have to be endorsed by both governments," Poncet cautioned.

Poncet, who took up his post here in early December, heads an estimated 1,700-strong force of

mostly professional airmen and soldiers which includes the elite Foreign Legion.

Radar and a dozen Mirage F1-C fighters, protected by US-made Hawk and French-made Crotale ground-to-air missiles are based in N'Djamena and Abeche, 600 kilometres to the east near Sudan. A year ago French military engineers rehabilitated Abeche's runway to accommodate modern jets.

Western diplomatic and military sources in N'Djamena, Chad's capital, said France, apparently unmoved by Libya's peace overtures towards its neighbour, would not pull out in haste.

They have withdrawn before, in 1984, when France and Libya agreed to a mutual pull-out from Chad. In August 1983 France had sent some 3,200 troops to support Habre against Libyan-backed rebels.

Paris rushed its forces back in early 1986 when Libya attacked Chadian garrisons and bombed N'Djamena airport.

"The events of 1984 have left sore memories and France will not allow its military presence to be used as a bargaining chip in peace talks between Chad and Libya. The two issues are quite separate," a diplomat said.

Chadian officials, obviously wary about Libya's real intentions, reacted angrily to a recent French radio report of an imminent French withdrawal after Chad and Libya restored diplomatic ties in October.

A visit to N'Djamena by the French chief of staff General Maurice Schmidt was unexpectedly cancelled.

Habre was quick to stress that detente with Libya did not equal peace and accused Libya of rearming despite the year-long truce. "For the time being the French military presence is fully

justified," he told journalists.

As a first step in reducing this presence France will remove a powerful radar at Moussoro which it set up to protect the capital, some 250 kilometres to the south, against air raids. French military sources indicated.

In Morocco, Socialist Mitterrand disappointed Habre by saying he would cut a project to build a third military runway at

Faya Largeau, Habre's home town. It had been promised earlier this year by the conservative government of then French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

Some 100 French soldiers — mostly mechanics assisting the Chadian army — are based at Faya Largeau, a strategic oasis 800 kilometres north of N'Djamena freed by government troops in 1987 after a four-year Libyan occupation.

## Bylines for the young

By Ibrahim Abu Nab

A FRIEND of mine who happened to be gasping for a breath of fresh air wrote recently in one of the Arabic dailies about the discrepancies in our midst. He observed three such discrepancies in just one sitting. Others may not afford such a leisure even if the contradictions in our society hit them right between their eyes. They have no time nor inclination for observing.

But that is what a columnist is for: To bend people's arms by the power of the word to make them see what they cannot see by the power of the sword. The word, if used properly, is more powerful than the sword.

My friend noted that some local papers publish sample questions and answers for the benefit of would-be graduates of Jordanian secondary schools. When that dirty old habit started in the press, he says, it was not primarily for the benefit of students, but rather for the benefit of the paper's own circulation. But now that papers are well established and no longer hard pressed for readers, they keep doing the same thing because students would not buy papers otherwise. So where do we go from here? My friend says: Do ask the teachers why are their students so thirsty for learning.

On the other hand, a street in the so-called Mount of Flowers in Amman (it is just a name that bears no relation to its meaning) bears the name of the Elegant Young Man. The columnist says that as far as he was concerned no such Elegant Young Man ever existed. (He is in fact an old poet.) The columnist, however, says that he was not aware of any elegant achievement by any young man that might have made him worthy of such a great renown. You can have your name, it seems, dubbed or dumped on an Amman street if you know your way in city hall.

But that is not the point which my columnist friend wanted to make it seems. Think, he wrote, what it would be like for someone living in that street to write his or her home address on the press.

Health Minister Yevgeny Chazov said last week that injured Armenians were not sent to Azerbaijan, despite its proximity to the quake zone, and Azerbaijani doctors were not invited to go to Armenia.

Armenians sent sarcastic telegrams of congratulations on the quake to Armenians, while some Armenians spread rumours that Azerbaijan was responsible for the disaster.

One woman who worked at Armenian television said she had seen film of a train arriving in Yerevan from Azerbaijan. Instead of carrying relief supplies, as marked, it had been filled with garbage.

The woman said television authorities in Moscow had forbidden the film to be broadcast.

Night curfews are in force in Yerevan and 15 other regions of Armenia, as well as several areas of Azerbaijan.

Since the quake up to 11 members of unofficial Karabakh Committee, which has coordinated the Nagorno-Karabakh campaign, have been arrested. Activists say more than 100 other people have been held in connection with the unrest.

The Moscow leadership has accused the Karabakh Committee of spreading false rumours after disaster.

The arrests and the heavy troop presence have succeeded in stopping public displays of dissent — for the time being.

But one senior Western aid official described the situation as a powder keg and said Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, who has led the relief operation from Yerevan, knew it.

Ryzhkov has really pushed his people hard. He knows there are two problems here. Once the effects of the earthquake die down, it's going to really blow up politically," he said.

Until the quake, foreign reporters had been largely barred for months from visiting Armenia to see the communal strife firsthand. Last week several Western photographers and camera teams were briefly detained for filming soldiers.

Armenians showed no reticence to discuss the age-old

clashes over Nagorno-Karabakh, populated mostly by Christian Armenians but administered by the neighbouring Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Kremlin ruled in July that Nagorno-Karabakh should stay part of Azerbaijan, which is mainly Muslim. But Moscow pledged to promote the area's Armenian heritage and boost its economy.

Soldiers with automatic rifles, riot shields and water cannon have surrounded Yerevan's Opera Square since demonstrations in February by up to one million people that marked the start of the unrest.

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# Features

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY DECEMBER 24, 1988

## Egypt's Christians head for desert attracted by monastic life

By Jeffrey Bartholet

**WADI NATRUN, Egypt —** In Egypt, more and more young Christian men are heading for the desert to follow a life of denial and seclusion.

The bearded monks, led by Father Matta Al Meskeen, had been living there for seven years. They survived on brackish water from desert springs and food sent by camel from friends in Cairo and Alexandria.

Poisonous snakes were plentiful and passing bedouin often took whatever meager vegetation the monks managed to grow.

"Although there were all these difficulties, we were very happy under the hand of God," said Father John.

"God protected us from disease, though our intestines were damaged by the water. For me, I feel happier with that life than here."

A disciple of St. Anthony, one of the first known Christian hermits, St. Macarius was said to have a face so full of grace it shone in the dark.

"This monastery had only six monks 20 years ago and now it has 100 monks," Father John

said.

Father John left his profession as a pharmacist in 1966 to join nine hermits living in a remote desert cave about 50 kilometers south of the Fayoum oasis.

As the monk spoke, the only other sounds within the monasteries walls were a whistling desert wind and the rattling of windows. A few visitors walked quietly in a courtyard nearby.

"This is not an individual movement, but a movement of the Coptic church. It is not happening only in this monastery but in many," he said.

The revival of monastic life reflects a general renaissance in the Coptic Christian church in Egypt where about 90 per cent of the population is Muslim.

The movement parallels an upsurge in Islamic observance. Many Muslims are returning to the ancient principles and traditions of their forebears.

The hermits restored three churches, including one named after 49 monks slaughtered there by berber raiders. In the sands around the monastery they grew olive trees, date palms and vegetables.

"We believe that Christ was born in the world — what time is not important," one monk said.

Most of the monks are university graduates. Earlier monks

were poorly educated.

"It is a witness to the world...," said Father John of his vocation. "If they see us and see our happiness, we can give them faith and strength."

Bishop Gregorius, a church official in Cairo, said the church does not urge young people to become monks, a prerequisite for becoming a bishop.

"On the contrary, the church says not to be in a hurry to join the monastic life," said Bishop Gregorius. "A man must test himself beforehand. It's not an easy life."

Although St. Macarius monastery has electricity, telephones, cars and modern irrigation equipment, there are no televisions or newspapers.

One monk said the latest news he had heard was about the August floods in Sudan.

The Coptic church celebrates Christmas on January 7 instead of December 25 because of what monks at St. Macarius believe was a Coptic miscalculation some centuries ago.

"We believe that Christ was born in the world — what time is not important," one monk said.



From diapers to the graduation robe Dar Al Tifl Al Arabi takes care of its children till they are able to care for themselves.



## Dar Al Tifl, a haven, a home

By Mariam M. Shahin

Special to the Jordan Times

**AMMAN —** The story goes that several days after the Deir Yassin massacre in 1948, several Arab children, the oldest not more than 10 years, were standing in a street corner somewhere between the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Mosque of Omar in the old city of Jerusalem. A passer-by was horrified to see the children and urged them to go home, warning that a war was going on and they would be hurt if they stood in the street. The children promptly told the lady that their parents had been killed and they had no home. They recounted what had happened; after their parents had been killed, the children were loaded on a truck and driven around the Jewish quarter of Jerusalem and stared at as exhibition "pieces".

"We decided to call the house Dar Al Tifl Al Arabi then," she said. "It was next door to the American colony and spacious enough for our needs."

In the beginning of 1949, a three-member board of trustees was formed and it was decided that the centre would use the house of Hind Husseini's grandfather Mohammed Saleh Husseini.

"We decided to call the house Dar Al Tifl Al Arabi then," she said. "It was next door to the American colony and spacious enough for our needs."

### Expansion

Since then Dar Al Tifl never looked back. It grew every year and now houses and schools over 1,200 children and employs 146 men and women. Its role as an educational institution began in the 1950s. Initially it offered education only on a primary school level. Today it offers an acknowledged university programme which consists of a bachelor's degree in social work, Arabic and English.

"Initially we sent our children to public schools, but I felt that our children — many of them orphans or have only one parent — did not receive sufficient personal, specialised attention," Husseini recalls. "People came from the camps, villages, towns and cities. We set up special classes in braille and hired teachers to help the physically handicapped. Gradually, specialised institutions opened and our students went there."

Even today, Dar Al Tifl accepts blind and physically handicapped children who cannot be placed in other specialised institutions.

Husseini is highly enthusiastic when explaining the centre's motivations.

"Our motto at Dar Al Tifl is normality. We attempt to create the most normal environment that we can for our children. We discourage children becoming boarders unless it is absolutely

necessary. We are also against creating separate classes for the physically handicapped, the blind, or the slow learners."

Initially there were two people running the whole show. Husseini contacted the city council, informed them of the situation and sought help. "They agreed, but they were in such a disarray at the time that if we had waited for them to act, half the kids would probably have starved," Husseini recalls. "We started collecting private funds. The Convent of the Sisters of Zion took us in for two months before I could arrange for more suitable lodgings."

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## Midland Bank 'donates' all Sudanese debt to UNICEF

LONDON (R) — An agreement under which Britain's fourth biggest commercial bank is donating all of its Sudanese debt to a U.N. relief agency could herald a wave of swaps to reduce Third World debt, analysts and aid officials say.

The world's poorest nations are overwhelmed by foreign obligations and have little hope of obtaining new loans for desperately needed investment for development projects.

Under the agreement by Midland Bank Plc, the Sudanese government will exchange the debt, with a face value of \$800,000, for local currency which will provide such investment.

The money will finance a United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) development programme in Sudan's drought-stricken central Kordofan area.

Through its contribution to one of the world's poorest countries, Midland made a public gesture of goodwill while at the same time divesting itself of nearly worthless

"Sudanese debt is almost im-

possible to collect," said Kline.

whose organisation acts as intermediary in non-profit aid plans.

Sudan, which has \$12 billion of foreign debt, owes arrears of \$1 billion to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), more than any other nation.

In 1986 the Washington-based IMF declared it ineligible for new credits.

"What else can you do with Sudanese debt?" asked Salomon Brothers analyst William Vincent, commenting on the transaction.

Sudan's paper is hardly ever traded in the secondary market for Third World debt, and dealers assessed its value at five cents on the dollar.

Although Midland's is the first donation of debt to finance a development project, last year saw a spate of environment-related gifts. The groundwork was laid in July, 1987, by a plan to ensure the protection of a stretch of Bolivian rain forest.

Under the agreement, Citicorp bought \$650,000 of Bolivian debt at an 85 per cent discount with funds provided by a private donor. The paper was then returned through an intermediary to the Bolivian government, which undertook in return to preserve 3.7 million acres (1.5 million hectares) of forest as a nature reserve.

Midland with the idea, is keen to close more such deals, said UNICEF director in Britain Robert Smith.

He said he could not comment on the discount because that could prejudice negotiations with other debtor countries.

A UNICEF spokeswoman said talks were under way with several other countries.

Although Midland's is the first donation of debt to finance a development project, last year saw a spate of environment-related gifts. The groundwork was laid in July, 1987, by a plan to ensure the protection of a stretch of Bolivian rain forest.

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## To lessen political dangers

## Experts urge serious measures to produce totally-Arab bread

from abroad and warned of the political implications of such heavy reliance on foreign imports.

With a population of nearly 200 million, the Arab Nation is considered the world's largest food importer and experts estimate the 1987 food import bill at \$25 billion.

Arab states should take serious measures to produce a loaf of bread that is totally Arab, because this represented the safety valve for food security," one of the recommendations said.

UAE

Economy

and Commerce Minister Saif Al Jarwan told the conference that seven out of ten loaves of bread were imported

According to a paper presented by the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, cosponsors of the conference, the Arab population will reach some 250 million by the year 2000.

Unless a reversal of this trend emerges, "one-third of the Arab population would starve, by then," the paper warned.

The conference recommended the establishment of a joint Arab bank with branches in the 21 Arab League states to finance import-export activities throughout the Arab World and to provide funds and loans to farmers and investors in the food industry.

## Gulf Arab states delay customs union

BAHRAIN (R) — Six Gulf Arab states have decided to delay the introduction of an agreement on customs duties on imports by another year, a Gulf minister said Thursday.

Bahraini Foreign Minister Mohammad Ibra Mubarak Al Khalifa told reporters at the end of a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit that the customs pact was an obstacle to the establishment of a common market between GCC states.

"We have decided to give it another period of one year to implement this clause," he said.

The unified custom tariffs accord was originally due to take effect between the GCC states of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in 1987. But a GCC summit in Abu Dhabi extended that deadline until early 1989.

Sheikh Mohammad said he hoped the pact — part of a 1981 plan to integrate GCC economies — would be implemented in December 1989.

GCC states import most of their goods from Europe, the Far East and the United States.

A communiqué issued Thursday at the end of the annual summit said the alliance had approved schemes to protect local products from foreign competi-

tion and encourage its industries.

Other measures to promote Gulf economic integration included a plan to give GCC citizens equal taxes and the right to own shares in all member states. A plan to provide refined oil products to each country in emergencies was also approved.

"The council looks with confidence to the next stage... to gradually implement more items of the agreement to positively support the joint Gulf market and push forward the wheel of economic development in member states," the statement said.

Cheysson says trade deal with GCC to be priority next year

Meanwhile, a trade deal between the European Community (EC) and the GCC will be a priority for the next European Commission, outgoing Commissioner Claude Cheysson said Thursday.

But the deal would have to include safeguards to protect the GCC's nascent industries as well as the EC's petrochemical industries. Cheysson, who is commissioner in charge of relations with Mediterranean states and Latin America, told Reuters in Brussels.

"The commission felt the agreement was so important that

"The agreement should be reciprocal, but it's important it doesn't cause serious trouble to vulnerable industries," Cheysson said.

Last year the Community had a trade surplus of 2.6 billion ECU (\$3.1 billion) with the GCC.

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday Dec. 22, 1988  
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	78.3	78.7
U.S. dollar	474.0	476.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	380.4	382.3
Pound Sterling	855.5	859.8	Dutch guilder	237.0	238.2
Deutschmark	267.7	269.0	Swedish crown	77.4	77.8
Swiss franc	316.8	318.4	Italian lira (for 100)	36.4	36.6
			Belgian franc (for 100)	127.9	128.5

### Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Dec. 17-21	Dec. 10-14
Daily average	JD 682,102	JD 519,118
Total volume	JD 3,410,514	JD 2,595,588
Total shares	2,587,763	1,966,882
No. of contracts	2,780	2,110
Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 1,684,313	JD 3,338,004
	(49.4%)	(51.6%)
Financial	JD 1,458,294	JD 1,074,417
	(42.8%)	(41.4%)
Service		(5.8%)
Insurance		(2.0%)
Share price index	125.9	125.0
No. of companies	73	73
Price movement (rise)	51	21
(decline)	14	42
(stable)	8	10

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7980/8010	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	0.5100/0000	Canadian dollar
	1.7765/80	Deutschmarks
	2.0035/55	Dutch guilder
	1.4970/90	Swiss francs
	37.08/20	Belgian francs
	6.0500/700	French francs
	1305/1307	Italian lire
	124.55/75	Japanese yen
	6.1270/370	Swedish crowns
	6.5550/650	Norwegian crowns
	6.8600/700	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	417.50/418.00	U.S. dollars

### WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Stocks closed steady after late selling nullified earlier rises as the market closed early for Christmas. The All Ordinaries Index eased 0.2 to 1,484.1.

TOKYO — Shares were easier on profit-taking after three days of gains. The Nikkei Index fell 88.35 to 29,686.26.

HONG KONG — Stocks closed higher after a few players boosted portfolios to end the year on a high note. The Hang Seng Index rose 13.86 to 2,656.59.

SINGAPORE — Local investors pushed up both prices and volume, though foreign investors were mostly absent. The Straits Times Industrial Index rose 8.68 to 1,024.82.

BOMBAY — Prices recovered after renewed buying by state institutions spurred speculative support, but dealers said the upturn was restrained by the coming Christmas holiday. The market will be closed until Jan. 2.

FRANKFURT — Strong foreign interest in Volkswagen enlivened otherwise quiet pre-Christmas trading, pushing shares to a higher close. The DAX index rose 4.31 to 1,328.46.

ZURICH — Shares finished quietly steady, with little news to move them. The Swiss Index rose 2.4 to 926.2.

PARIS — Prices extended gains in active midday trading. There was strong buying of industrials as less speculative stocks caught up with recent rises for more volatile movers.

LONDON — Shares closed firm in sluggish pre-holiday trading, buoyed by U.K. balance of payments data for November which was much as expected. The FTSE 100 share index closed 5.3 points higher at a day's high of 1,774.

NEW YORK — Stocks gained in early trading, with blue chips moderately higher. But traders said thin volume may have exaggerated the effect of light early buy orders. The Dow was up six at 2,166.

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### EMBASSY OF INDIA

#### AMMAN NOTICE

Jordanian students desirous of pursuing studies in India on self-financing basis in under-graduate courses in engineering, medicine and pharmacy and also diploma courses in engineering during the academic year 1989-90 are advised to contact the Indian embassy located at First Circle, near Malhas Hospital,

Jabal Amman, from Dec. 28, 1988 to Jan. 31, 1989, between 8.30 to 11.30 a.m. with attested statement of marks. Students with aggregate marks of 80% and above in their Tawjih examination will be considered for admission.

For admission to MBBS/BDS course a candidate must have taken biology, physics, chemistry and for engineering course physics, chemistry and mathematics and a pass in English in Tawjih examination.

### NOTICE

#### FOR ALL WHO APPLIED FOR THE VACANT POST

#### OF ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCE OFFICER AT

#### THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

#### P.O. BOX 811721 AMMAN

This is to inform all those who applied for the above post and who have not heard from us, that the post has been filled. We would like to thank you for your interest in our organisation.

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A Jordanian company has a vacancy for a full time executive secretary. Good command of English is a must. Command of French is preferable. Minimum salary is JD 250 and according to qualifications; plus fringe benefits. Interested candidates to send their C.V. to: P.O. Box 208, Amman, Jordan.

All applications will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

# Sports

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY DECEMBER 24, 1988 7

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Italian driver joins Tyrrell

LONDON (AP) — Italian driver Michele Alboreto has joined the British-based Tyrrell racing organisation for the 1989 Formula One Grand Prix season, it was announced Thursday. Alboreto was with Ferrari last season but the Italian team has now signed Briton Nigel Mansell. Alboreto, whose Tyrrell partner will be Britain's Jonathan Palmer, will be joining the team for the second time. He first raced for Tyrrell in 1981 and won his first Grand Prix, the America West at Las Vegas, in one of its cars the following year. His 1983 victory for Tyrrell in the America East Grand Prix in Detroit was the last by a non-turbo car.

### Poland bans soccer defector

WARSAW (R) — The Polish Soccer Federation has banned Andrzej Rudy, one of the country's top players, for five years because he defected to the West, the official PAP news agency said Friday. Rudy, 23, an international midfielder, failed to return home from Italy after travelling to Milan with the Polish squad for a match against an Italian league selection November 11. Under international regulations, Rudy will be automatically suspended for one year if he signs for any club without the permission of the Polish federation. But the federation's five-year ban is unlikely to apply outside Poland. Rudy moved in early August from Slask Wroclaw to GKS Katowice for \$10,000, the highest known transfer fee between Polish clubs.

### Christie to help Olympics drugs probe (athletics)

LONDON (R) — British sprinter Linford Christie, involved in a doping controversy at the Seoul Olympics, is to be asked to help a British Olympic Association (BOA) investigation into drug-taking incidents at the games. Apart from double silver medallist Christie, who was cleared after inadvertently taking a banned drug, Judoka Kerith Brown and modern pentathletes Dominic Mahony and Richard Phelps are to be approached to aid the probe. Brown won a bronze medal but was later disqualified for using a banned diuretic, while Mahony and Phelps, members of Britain's bronze medal-winning team, were cleared after testing positive. BOA spokeswoman Caroline Searle said Thursday: "We think it is vitally important that, after their experiences, these four should be asked to help the inquiry." She was hopeful that they would all accept their invitations to attend in mid-January.

### Anderson may miss rest of season

LONDON (R) — Manchester United defender Viv Anderson may miss the rest of the English soccer season after undergoing back surgery just two days after being fined and banned for one match for his part in an off-the-pitch fight.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SHARIF  
© 1988 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

### COUNT 'EM OUT

**North-South vulnerable. North deals.**

NORTH	♦ 2	South's value bid of six no trump, North gave full weight to his 19 points and six-card suit, and raised one for the road.
	♦ A K 9 5	West dutifully led a spade, Declarer won and led the jack of diamonds to the king in the hope that the queen would appear. We know some players who would come back to hand and take the diamond, if not because of the fact that East had announced considerable length in spades, but not this declarer.
WEST	♦ 8 7	He cashed the king-queen of clubs and then came to hand with a heart to the queen. East's spade discard was revealing. Next, declarer cashed his ace-jack of clubs, and East followed all the way.
EAST	♦ Q 10 6 5 4 3	When all followed to declarer's remaining spade winner, the count of East's hand was now almost complete. He could have no more than seven spades, and he had shown up with no hearts and four clubs. Therefore, he had to have at least two diamonds, and it had to be specifically two if declarer was going to make his slam. So declarer led a diamond to the king, dropped the queen and had more than enough tricks.
SOUTH	♦ 10 9 5	"There must be something to this 'nine never' business after all."

The bidding: North East South West 1 ♦ 3 ♠ 6 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Eight of ♦

If you blindly follow rubrics, you would have no trouble with this hand. Even if the hearts break evenly, you will need three diamond tricks for your grand slam. On the principle of "Eight ever, nine never," you would play for the drop. But we prefer firmer evidence for our choice of lines when we are playing for all the tricks.

North-South were using a forcing club system, so the opening bid guaranteed 17 points or more. After

## Stolen at night

PARIS (R) — Swede Bruno Berglund could find himself curling up to sleep in the car if his boss, pre-race favourite Ari Vatanen, sights victory in the Paris-Dakar rally.

Vatanen is anxious to avoid a repetition of last year when he arrived at Bamako, Mali, just five days from the end of the exhausting test with a comfortable one-hour lead only to have his Peugeot stolen during the night.

It was a setback Vatanen took hard but one, he insists, which will not happen again — even if it means Berglund spending a night or two on guard duty.

"This time the co-driver will sleep in the car," the former world champion joked, before adding with a smile: "I'm in the boss and he'll do what I say."

Last year, although the Peugeot was found within hours parked at a rubbish tip in the dusty Malian capital, Vatanen was disqualified after arriving last for the next stage.

"People need entertainment. Even if it means having your car stolen," he said.

## Ex-Indy star gets life on drug charges

ILLINOIS (AP) — A judge sentenced former auto-racing star Randy Lanier to life in prison without the possibility of parole for helping run a multimillion-dollar marijuana-smuggling operation.

Before the sentencing Wednesday, Lanier, the 1986 Indianapolis 500 rookie of the year, tearfully told U.S. district judge James Foreman that the punishment would be "cruel and unusual."

An attorney for Lanier said he would appeal the sentence.

"It is unfair and unjust to impose a sentence of life without parole for a marijuana offence, regardless of the amount," said the attorney, Robert Ritchie.

In sentencing Lanier, Foreman said that of the 300 to 400 cocaine cases he had presided over, invariably the defendants started out using marijuana.

"You have caused a lot of heartache, and individually you've ruined a lot of lives in this



Andre Agassi, playing in the rain

## Donnay signs on Agassi

BRUSSELS (AP) — Donnay International SA, the Belgian tennis racket maker, Thursday signed U.S. tennis star Andre Agassi to a five-year, \$6 million contract in a bid to revive its flagging fortunes.

Agassi, at 18 already the top-ranked American in the world, will play with Donnay rackets in international tournaments.

He is the brightest prospect to represent the Belgian company since Sweden's Bjorn Borg wielded its rackets in the 1970s.

Donnay rode Borg's wave of success to become the world's biggest racket producer. But after the five-time Wimbledon champion retired in 1981, Donnay fell on hard times.

It was declared bankrupt with debts of \$38 million in August.

But French businessman Bernard Tapie picked up the company, renamed it Donnay International SA and started looking for a new standard.

Agassi will use a specially designed racket for him.

He is primed to be the new undisputed top draw in U.S. tennis as John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors are becoming veterans and the La Vegas native faces little competition from contemporaries.

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## Thorstvedt poised for debut

LONDON (R) — Norwegian goalkeeper Erik Thorstvedt could make his debut for English First Division Tottenham Hotspur in a league match against Luton next Monday.

The English Football Association (FA) gave permission for Thorstvedt to play after his \$540,000 transfer from Sweden's IFK Gothenburg had been delayed several weeks by formalities of international registration.

The FA received Thorstvedt's papers from Sweden and gave their approval Thursday.

The 26-year-old goalkeeper,

capped 51 times by Norway, will challenge Bobby Mimms for a place in a Tottenham side which has enjoyed an encouraging revival since climbing

from the bottom place it occupied in the First Division early in November. \$3.6 million signing Paul Gascoigne has begun to live up to his expensive price tag in an improving team as Spurs have risen to the middle of the table.

Arsenal are two points behind Norwich with a game in hand.

Millwall, a further four points adrift in third place, are also involved in a London Derby at Wimbledon.

Fourth-placed Derby are at home to Liverpool, who are one point and two places behind their hosts.

Coventry and Southampton, the teams respectively immediately above and below Liverpool in the table, confront each other in an evenly-balanced duel at Southampton.

## MUSIC WORLD

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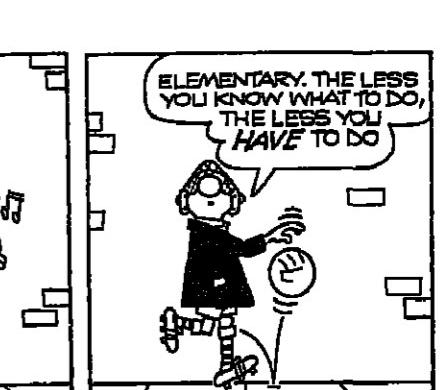
## Peanuts



## Mutt'n Jeff



## Andy Capp



"We've been singing for him all year! Where the heck is our Christmas TIP?!"

## THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

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## Gandhi ends China visit on high note

PEKING (AP) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India Friday ended a visit to China with the two nations expressing a common desire to improve ties after nearly three decades of relations strained by territorial dispute.

Gandhi, accompanied by his wife, Sonia, departed for home from Shanghai after his five-day visit, the first by an Indian head of government since his grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru, visited in 1954.

"They also agreed to develop their relations actively in other fields and work hard to create a favourable climate and conditions for a fair and reasonable settlement of the boundary question."

It said Gandhi's talks with Chinese Premier Li Peng were held "in an atmosphere of friendship, candidness and mutual understanding." Gandhi also met with senior leader Deng Xiaoping, Communist Party head Zhao Ziyang and President Yang Shangkun.

The border issue, Gandhi said, is "very complicated" and a quick solution is unlikely.

Asian and Western diplomats said the Gandhi visit would let the two sides prevent the border dispute from impeding an improvement in ties and focus on economic development.

"Both China and India want to

be able to shift scarce resources away from defence and into economic development," said an Asian diplomat. "This helps them do it."

China claims 90,000 square kilometres of mountainous frontier in what New Delhi says is northeast India's Arunachal Pradesh province. India says China illegally occupied 36,000 square kilometres on its western border.

The communiqué said China "expressed concern over anti-China activities by some Tibetan elements in India," and that the Indian side repeated its policy of recognising Tibet as part of China and banning Tibetans from carrying out anti-Chinese political activities on Indian soil.

India has been the home of Tibet's religious leader, the Dalai Lama, and thousands of his followers who fled Tibet after an abortive anti-Chinese uprising in 1959. China blames supporters of the Dalai Lama for pro-independence activities that have led to violent clashes with police the past 14 months.



Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his wife Sonia visit the Great Wall of China.

## World's richest lottery showers millions on Spaniards

MADRID (Agencies) — The world's richest lottery made peseta millionaires of hundreds of winners throughout Spain Thursday, showering them with the equivalent of \$734 million in the traditional Christmas drawing.

A crowd in a Madrid auditorium roared, and reporters scrambled towards the stage as two boys from an orphanage sang out the number of the first prize popularly called "El Gordo," or "the fat one."

The drawing paid out 250 million pesetas (\$2.2 million) to each of the 72 series of the number 21,583.

The first prize totalled 18 billion pesetas (\$159 million) and was spread widely among hundreds of people who bought tickets in Barcelona, Madrid, Lugo, Gijon and other towns throughout Spain.

The second prize paid 120 million pesetas (\$1 million) to each of the 72 series of the number 32,694.

The third prize paid 60 million pesetas (\$526,315) to each of the 72 series of the number 64,835.

"These army guys can really smell out money," General Juan Anton of the Maestrazgo infantry division in eastern Valencia told reporters, referring to the purchasing department that bought the greater part of the third-prize tickets.

Thursday's prizes were the richest since King Carlos III established Spain's first lottery in 1763.

To cope with demand this year, the state-run lottery issued 72 series of tickets of each of the 66,000 lottery numbers.

The value of the tickets

printed reached a record 118 billion pesetas (\$1.5 billion), with a 30 per cent cut of lottery proceeds going straight into state coffers.

For three hours the country's attention was fixed on smartly-dressed pairs of children from a Madrid orphanage who picked out numbered balls from vast drums and chanted the winning numbers with the hypnotic gravity of monks.

Roars swept through the lottery hall when two boys finally sang the number of El Gordo — 21,583. But like all the winning numbers, it figured on 72 tickets each divided into 10 parts and no single person won outright.

Champagne and tears of joy flowed in a working class district of Torrejon, west of Madrid, where a grocer's shop had

sold a number of shares carrying the winning number.

The small town of Alcala, south of Madrid, won the entire \$75-million second prize, \$42 million of it shared among members and supporters of a local sports club.

But mingled with celebrations were cautionary tales from last year's El Gordo winners in Alicante who found that money does not always buy happiness.

"My wife started going out at night, and I have not seen her since," a man who declined to be named told the newspaper ABC.

"My husband bought a sports car, found a girlfriend and left. My children and I are waiting to get our part of the winnings," an anonymous woman said.

Spain's population of 38 million spent an average of \$25 a head on the lottery this year most buying a 10th or an even smaller part of a ticket rather than paying the full \$220.

Spaniards are superstitious about the giant lottery, 170 told reporters no one died but an elderly woman suffered severe burns from the fire that gutted the 1,400-ton Dona Conchita.

Some swear by a number they have chosen for years, some consult horoscopes or buy their tickets from a "lucky" kiosk, others note figures which have popped up consistently in the past.

Bars, clubs and colleagues at work get together to buy tickets and some employers give their staff a share in a ticket as a Christmas bonus.

As usual, the clear winner again this year was the state, which amassed \$236 million.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### U.N. session suspended until early 1989

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The General Assembly suspended its annual session Thursday until some time early in 1989. Seven items remain on the agenda of the present session. They are: Election of a member of the World Court, the question of Palestine, Israel's 1981 attack on an Iraqi nuclear reactor, the question of Cyprus, the Iran-Iraq conflict, development and international economic cooperation, and a report of the U.N. Committee on Relations with the Host Country. Two other items were deferred until the regular 1989 session opening next September: Global negotiations on international cooperation for development, and proposals for increased representation on the Security Council.

### Dwellings to be destroyed in Chernobyl

MOSCOW (AP) — A total of 43 dwellings will be demolished in the city of Chernobyl, which became a ghost town after the explosion and fire 2½ years ago at the nearby nuclear power station, a news report said Thursday. The front-page report in the government newspaper Izvestia indicated that officials would not tear down the entire city as had been reported in October by the Communist Party paper Pravda. Izvestia said the Chernobyl power plant was going over to economic self-financing on Jan. 1, indicating it was operating normally. In a separate report, the official TASS news agency said 95-96 per cent of the nuclear fuel remains entombed in the plant's destroyed No. 4 reactor and that scientists were trying to decide how to dispose of it.

### Coup plotters to face trial in Maldives

MALE (R) — Foreign mercenaries and their Maldivian backers who took part in a failed coup last month are expected to stand trial in the Indian Ocean island republic in two weeks, a senior government official said. Attorney-general Ahmad Zaki told state television in the Maldives that investigations into the attempt to overthrow President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom were almost complete.

### U.S. judge trims anti-communist act

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A U.S. judge ruled Thursday that portions of a 1952 law allowing deportation of aliens for advocating world communism are unconstitutional because they violate immigrants' rights of free speech. U.S. District Judge Stephen V. Wilson also threw out a congressional exception to a subsequent law, which gave free speech rights to all immigrants except members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

### Gas leak in eastern India, 500 ill

NEW DELHI (AP) — Sulphur dioxide gas that leaked from an acid plant in eastern Bihar state made 500 villagers ill, including 20 who were hospitalised Friday in serious condition, the United News of India reported. The leak in Jharkhand village near Jamshedpur, about 1000 kilometres east of New Delhi, was so intense that crops near the plant were also damaged, the news agency said. Cattle were also affected by the leak, which occurred Thursday. The cause of the leak was not immediately known. Sulphur dioxide, a heavy, colourless, suffocating gas, is used as bleach, disinfectant or as preservative. The victims, mostly women and children, complained of burning in their eyes and throat and had breathing difficulties, the agency said, quoting police.

### Bonn gives aid to Greece, Turkey

BONN (R) — West Germany will give 400 million marks (\$228 million) in defence aid to NATO allies Turkey and Greece over the next three years, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday. Turkey will get 260 million marks (\$148 million) and Greece 140 million marks (\$80 million) under separate agreements signed in Bonn, it said. Both countries have been receiving West German defence aid since 1964 under a NATO accord providing for the alliance's strongest countries to help weaker members meet their military obligations.

## Bush to push bid to topple Noriega

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect George Bush has pledged to pursue President Ronald Reagan's policy of seeking the removal of Manuel Antonio Noriega from power in Panama.

"Our policy will be that Noriega must go. There should be no misunderstanding about our policy," Bush told Eric Arturo Delvalle, the ousted president whom the United States continues to recognise as Panama's legitimate leader.

The vice president's words were relayed to reporters by White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater after Bush met privately with Reagan, Delvalle and National Security Adviser Colin L. Powell.

Fitzwater said Delvalle requested the meeting because of "rumours and unfounded stories in Panama of a change in U.S. policy."

"He was looking for assurance of steadfastness," the spokesman said.

Delvalle has lived in hiding in Panama since being deposed last February by forces loyal to Noriega, who was indicted on drug-smuggling charges by two federal grand juries in Florida earlier this year.

The spokesman described the meeting, which lasted about 15 minutes, as "a general discussion of where we go from here."

Delvalle met Wednesday afternoon with Secretary of State George Shultz shortly after his arrival from Panama aboard a U.S. military jet. Neither spoke to reporters after the meeting.

Fitzwater said Delvalle did not suggest any changes in policy and there was no discussion of relaxing the economic sanctions that the United States has applied against the Noriega-run government.

Fitzwater said there was no discussion of the possibility of Delvalle resigning and no discussion of possible U.S. military action. As to the latter possibility, he would say only, "we don't discuss military options."

On Wednesday, State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley appeared to rule out U.S. military force to depose Noriega, saying that "Panama's political crisis can be resolved only by Panamanians."

Fitzwater said Reagan commended Delvalle's courage and patriotism and promised his continued support. He said Delvalle thanked the president and vice president for their backing.

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Manuel Antonio Noriega

The Washington Post reported in Thursday's editions that, during a meeting in Panama City last week with William J. Crowley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Delvalle threatened to give up his struggle against Noriega unless the United States came up with a specific plan to remove him.

The Post said that according to notes of the secret meeting provided by a source, Delvalle said he saw no reason to continue making personal "sacrifices" without a specific plan of action to remove Noriega.

The newspaper said the Dec. 11 meeting also was attended by U.S. Ambassador to Panama Arthur Davis and the commander of the U.S. military's southern command, Fred F. Woerner.

## Provincial row lingers despite Bhutto moves

ISLAMABAD (R) — A caretaker chief minister has taken control in Pakistan's Baluchistan province but opposition leaders say Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's first domestic political crisis sparked by the dissolution of the provincial assembly was not yet over.

Officials said Justice Kudratullah Marri was sworn in Thursday as acting chief minister by Baluchistan Governor Mohammad Musa. A five-member cabinet was due to take office Friday.

Musa dissolved the provincial legislature Dec. 15, acting on the advice of then Chief Minister Zafarullah Khan Jamali which the governor was constitutionally bound to follow.

Baluchistan is the largest but least populated of Pakistan's four provinces.

Political analysts said the dissolution only two weeks after Bhutto became premier had saved Jamali, who headed a coalition including her Pakistan People's Party (PPP), from losing a

vote of confidence.

Bhutto, whose party won general elections Nov. 16, has denied opposition accusations she conspired to keep an ally in power and challenged them to take the issue to court or face elections within 90 days.

Opposition leaders are divided on how best to tackle the problem and some who have held talks with Bhutto this week said she shared their desire for a solution.

"We have not yet reached a consensus to wriggle out of the crisis but we are continually trying to find a respectable solution," said Fazlur Rehman, leader of the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam.

Some shook their heads in disbelief at the nudes before them. Others leered lasciviously. Still more gazed with obvious appreciation.

"I feel this exhibition shows we have achieved a little more freedom. In the past, you would never see this," said Wang Xing, a 22-year-old student.

## COLUMN

### All-nude exhibition opens in Peking

PEKING (AP) — Thousands of people packed into China's top art gallery Thursday for the opening of Peking's first painting exhibition devoted entirely to the study of nudes. Poets, top government officials, schoolchildren, young couples and workers gathered around the paintings by some of China's best artists.

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### Myerson acquitted in divorce-fixing case

NEW YORK (R) — Bess Myerson, a former Miss America, New York City official and friend of Mayor Ed Koch, was acquitted Thursday of charges she bribed a judge to fix her lover's divorce case. The jury also acquitted her boyfriend and co-defendant Carl Capasso — a millionaire sewer-contractor currently serving a three-year term for tax evasion — and former New York State Supreme Court Justice Hostense Gabell. As the final not-guilty verdict of the six count indictment was read out, clearing Myerson of obstruction of justice, the 64-year-old former city consumer affairs and cultural affairs commissioner hugged her attorney.

The government sought to prove in the trial that Myerson gave Judge Gabell's daughter, Sukhreet, a \$19,000-a-year job as her assistant in return for reduced support and alimony payments to Capasso's former wife Nancy.

### Acting helps presidential tasks'

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan, a former film star, said in a television interview broadcast Thursday that he sometimes wonders how anyone in the White House could do the job without prior acting experience.

"There have been times in this office when I've wondered how you could do the job if you hadn't been an actor," Reagan said when asked if his Hollywood background had been helpful to his presidency. Trying to explain himself, the president said a prominent criminal lawyer once told him that if he were defending an individual with only circumstantial evidence against him, he would prefer a jury of actors over any other profession. "Due to their very livelihood, they could see how something would look one way and be the other," he said in the interview.

### Pet lion kills woman in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (R) — A young lion kept as a pet on a Mexican ranch killed a woman as she tried to feed the animal, the official Notimex news agency reported Thursday. Notimex said the lion killed Juana Arias, an employee on the Linda Vista ranch in the northwestern state of Tamaulipas. Wednesday night apparently because it did not recognise her.

The lion's owner Enrique Grefies told authorities he heard Arias scream and found her badly mauled by the normally docile animal. Grefies said he killed the lion with his shotgun.

### Birth control funds for building repairs

PEKING (AP) — Some local officials strapped for cash because of the nation's austerity programme are using birth-control funds to repair roads and build factories, an official newspaper said. More than three million yuan (\$802,000) intended for family planning work in 175 villages in the Nanning district of southern China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region was misspent by local officials, the newspaper said.

It was set up in 1941 to strike deep behind German lines during World War II. After the war, it fulfilled a counter-insurgency role in Malaysia, Oman, Brunei, Borneo and Aden.

At the SAS "killing house" at its British base in Hereford, special project teams are trained in hostage rescues. New recruits are carefully nurtured through the ranks in a tight chain of command. Those freed from jail are speedily rehabilitated.

Counter-terrorist expertise is swapped with Delta Force in the United States and GSG 9 in West Germany.

The book, looking forward on a sombre note, concludes: "The battle to come between the IRA and the SAS and security forces will be ferocious and unrelenting."

"No one is in any doubt that there are greater atrocities and more bloody encounters on the horizon."

"The bloodiest clash between the IRA and the SAS took place in the sleepy little Northern Ireland village of Loughgall.

The book, looking forward on a sombre note, concludes: "The battle to come between the IRA and the SAS and security forces will be ferocious and un